

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the sub-heading before paragraph [0001] and add the following new sub-headings and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/DE03/01221, filed on 3 April 2003. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) is claimed from German Application No. 102 15 254.3, filed 7 April 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention --

Please add before paragraph [0002] the following new sub-heading:

-- 2. Description of the Related Art --

Please add before paragraph [00015] the following new sub-heading:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please delete paragraph [0016] in entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] As a result, the ballast body can rest simultaneously against the outside contours of a plurality of fastening elements, which minimizes the load exerted by the ballast bodies on the component. This measure is especially effective when the outside contours are oval or kidney-shaped. ~~As a result, the ballast body can rest simultaneously against the outside contours of a plurality of fastening elements, which minimizes the load exerted by the ballast bodies on the component.~~ Other shapes are also possible, however, for the external contours or for the rib

structure of the fastening elements in particular, as long as the principle of the invention is still followed.

Please add before paragraph [0023] the following new sub-heading:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS** --

Please add before paragraph [00284] the following new sub-heading:

-- **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS** --

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The washing tub is preferably made of a plastic such as polyethylene or polypropylene, so that both the washing tub and the loading weight, which is shown by itself in Figure 3, preferably have similar ~~surfaees~~ surface properties.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] In contrast to the washing tub, the recesses in the ballast weight are of different shapes. Common to all the recesses 11, 11', 11'' is that their surface 111, which serves as a contact surface for the external contours 232 of the fastening elements, are all of the same design in order to ensure the most homogeneous possible contact with the external contours 232, 242 of the fastening elements 23, 24. Depending on how many fastening elements 23, 24 with corresponding external contours 232, 242 are present, the same number of recesses 11, 11', 11'' will be provided in the ballast weight 1. As already mentioned, the ballast weight has recesses 15 ~~in consideration of~~ for adjusting the center of gravity of the washing tub and of the loading weight and in consideration of other components of the washing machine. To compensate for the weight in the area of the recesses 15 shown in Figure 3, it is provided that the loading weight also has elevations 14 inside the recesses, which can fit into the empty spaces in the fastening elements 23, 24 and thus increase the local weight of the ballast.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Figure 4 shows a cross section through the ballast weight of Figure 1 in the area of a fastening element 23 with a threaded post 233. The weight 1, as already shown in Figure 1, has an upper depression ~~12, 13~~ 12 and a bore 13 to allow a fastening means to be inserted into the threaded bore in post 233. The weight 1 rests on the surface 22 of the washing tub 2, next to the front-loading opening 21, but the surfaces 111 of the weight are also in contact with the external contours 232, 242 of the fastening elements 23, 24. The honeycomb or ribbed structures 241 of the fastening elements are especially easy to see here. In the case of fastening element 24, these structures provide the external contour 242 with appropriate support, whereas the structures 231 provide the external contour 232 with similar support.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] As previously described, the weight also has elevations 14 in some of the ~~fastening elements 23~~ recesses 11. These elevations are used to adjust the position of the center of gravity. Although they fit into the fastening elements 23, they do not make contact with them, just as the threaded posts 233 do not make contact with the weight.

Please add at page 9, after the heading, the following sub-heading:

-- What is claimed is: --